THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRl K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) India has consistently urged the US Administration and members of the Congress to use their influence with Pakistan, and available means under US laws, to deter Pakistan from pursuing the nuclear weapons option.

(b) The US Administration and some members of Congress have also expressed their concern over aspects of Pakistan's nuclear programme and the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia. The US Administration has viewed Pakistan's nuclear programme with its clearly non-peaceful aspects in a regional context. At the same time, the US has given Pakistan the benefit, of a waiver from US non-proliferation laws. India finds this approach unacceptable.

US Aid to Pakistan

611. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: j

i(a) whether India has taken up Iwith the U. S. the issue of 4 billion dollar aid to Pakistan which is likely to strengthen Pak effort to go nuclear; I and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRl K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US Government has stated that its security assistance to Pakistan is a response to a perceived threat from Afghanistan and to Pakistan's defence modernisation needs and is not directed against India. Government do not share this assessment.

Vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

612. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of vacancies of Judges of High Courts/Supreme Court as on the 31st October, 1987;

(b) the time since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the steps taker to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 31-10-1987, there were 10 vacancies in the authorised strength of 26 Judges in the Supreme Court, and 50 vacancies in the total sanctioned strength of 442 Judges in various High Courts of the country.

(fo) The vacancies in the Supreme Court arose on the following dates:

Dates from which they have arisen	No. of vacancies
1-7-1987	10
25-9-1987	

Remaining 8 vacancies arose on 9-5-1986 when the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was raised from 18 to 26 Judges by Parliamentary enactment.

The dates on which the 50 vacancies of Judges in the High Courts arose are given in the enclosed statement. (See below)

(c) Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities. Government is making all possible efforts to fill up the vacancies. This is however a continuous process.

Statement

HIGH COURTS

As on 31-10-1987

S.No.	High Court	Vacancies		Date from which these are laying vacant
		Perm.	Addl.	
1	Allahabad	1	5	15-10-84 15-10-84 15-10-84 15-10-84 15-10-84 16-07-87
2	Andhra Pradesh	3	2	26-11-82 29-11-82 17-10-87 17-10-87 21-10-87
3	Bombay	1	1	01-05-87 June 87
4	Calcutta	..	..	..
5	Delhi	4	1	29-04-87 16-08-87 21-08-87 05-10-87 23-10-87
6	Gauhati	2	..	03-11-86 20-12-86
7	Gujarat	1	3	07-06-84 26-06-84 02-04-85 26-11-86
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	23-09-86 01-05-87
9	Jammu & Kashmir	..	..	..
10	Karnataka	1	..	05-10-87
11	Kerala	1	..	31-08-87
12	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	27-10-86 01-09-86 02-04-87
13	Madras	5	..	10-03-86 10-08-86 03-09-86 23-10-86 09-05-87
14	Orissa	2	1	24-06-86 26-06-86 05-09-87

1	2	3	4	5
15	Patna.	. 4		27-07-87 11-08-87 05-10-87 11-10-87
16	Punjab & Haryana	. 6		24-05-85 12-03-86 11-07-86 16-07-86 15-10-87 16-10-87
17	Rajasthan	. 1		21-01-86
	TOTAL	35	15	

Purchase of Cray XMP-14 Super Computer from U. S. A.

613. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to US reluctance to sell the pofwerful 'Cray' XMP-24 model, India had to purchase Cray XMP-14 model super computer; and

(b) if so, the reasons for going in for inferior quality of super computer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH); (a) At the present time the US government has agreed to release the Cray XMP-14 supercomputer o'r equivalent models to India; the higher capacity Cray XMP-24 is not considered releasable.

(b) The XMP-14 meets India's needs. It also contains exactly the same technology as the XMP-24 and the processors used are identical, although the XMP-14 is of a lower capacity. Besides the Governments of India - nd the United States are to consult regularly to ensure that US Supercomputer exports to India reflect the rapid pace of advanced technology and India's increasing capability.

614. [Transferred *to the* 17th *November* 1987]

Purchase of sophisticated Defence Items from US

615. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is likely to buy sophisieated US defence items during the next two years;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan is buying defence items from USA on large scale: and

(d) if so, what are the common items India and Pakistan are likely to buy from USA and whether India will not go for items Pakistan is buy ing or is likely to buy from the USA; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL); (a) and (b) It